

APPROVED

**EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

Meeting of June 3, 2009

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Members Present: Kim Bobola, Ph.D. (Chair); Bill Strassberger (Parliamentarian); Thomas Aylward; Amjad Chaudhry; Marva R. Deskins, Esq; G. Stanley Doore; John Fausti, Esq.; David Kochanski, Esq.; Peter Myo Khin; Eric Luedtke; Allan Mulligan; Alfreda Hunt Payne, Ph.D.; Anthony Ramirez; Benoy Thomas.

Members Absent: Vanessa Ali; Sheala Durant (Treasurer); Colleen Ionata (Vice Chair); Odessa Shannon; John Thomas and Dwayne Parris

Staff: Joy Nurmi, (Acting Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center), Chuck Crisostomo (Asst. Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center)

Legislative Briefing Speakers: District 14- Sen.Rona Kramer; Del. Herman Taylor; Del. Anne Kaiser; Del. Karen Montgomery; District 20 – Sen. Jamie Raskins, Del.Tom Hucker.

Guests: Harry Montgomery (spouse, Del. Karen Montgomery); Frank & Claudia Carouso (GLCA); Mark Pharaoh (ECRAB); Claire Iseli; Mara M. Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Dan Whitem (GCCA); Adrienne Lees (GCCA); Dolly Kildee (Staff, District 4 Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Joseph Pignataro; P.N. Sinha (resident); Stuart Rochester (Chair, Fairland Master Plan) and Robert Dongu (Gazette reporter)

Chair Bobola welcomed District 14 and District 20 State Senators and State Delegates.

Legislative Briefing- The speakers spoke on bills being introduced and approved. Topics covered were on education, healthcare, transportation, safety, etc. A ten-minute question and answer session followed.

Chair Bobola thanked the speakers for providing an update on various topics and sharing their thoughts and time with the board.

Citizen's Forum: Chair Bobola welcomed everyone.

Stuart Rochester –shared his concern regarding Rte 28. He expressed his hope that the ICC would reduce the carrying capacity of 198 in the future. Bus Rapid Transportation is used by some in the county. It sounds good on paper but he has some reservations.

Mark Pharoh, Chair, ECRAB-

(i) gave an update on his meeting held last Tuesday regarding Golf Course Planning Board and its future use. The meeting was well-attended with some people upset that the golf course is being considered for fee-based usage, and would rather the usage structure of the golf course stays as-is.

(ii) Community Meetings: Parks and Recreation Programming- announced a community meeting on Wednesday, June 17th and 24th, to learn about the County Council's April 2009 directive and voice your opinion on how the delivery of the recreational services and programs provided by the Montgomery Parks Department and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation can be improved. **Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m.-** The Lodge at Little Seneca Creek, 14500-A Clopper Road, Boyds, MD 20841 and **Wednesday, June 24, 2009, 7:00 p.m.,** Gwendolyn E Coffield, Community Recreation Center, 2450 Lyttonsville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dolly Kildee– representing Councilmember Nancy Navarro’s office. Councilmember Nancy Navarro looks forward to a long and lengthy relationship with ECCAB and the Regional Service Center.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:50 p.m.

Election of Board Members –

Kim Bobola and Thomas Aylward conducted the elections.

Chair	The nominees for the position of Board Chair are Marva R. Deskins, Esq. and Bill Strassberger.
Vice Chair	John Fausti, Esq.
Secretary	No nominations
Parliamentarian	Eric Luedtke

- Bill Strassberger and Marva Deskins, Esq. gave a short speech as to why they should be elected.
- The ballots for Board Chair were passed to the board members for voting.
- The ballots were counted by Chair Bobola, Thomas Aylward in the presence of Anjoo Chohda (EMRSC, staff)

Results: Bill Strassberger was elected..

Anthony Ramirez received nomination as the ECCAB Secretary.

- New officers elected:

Bill Strassberger - Chair
John J. Fausti, Esq. - Vice Chair
Anthony Ramirez - Secretary
Eric Luedtke - Parliamentarian

- Kim Bobola made a few remarks and then turned over the ECCAB gavel, which she noted symbolizes the trust reposed in the ECCAB, to incoming Chair Strassberger.
- Chuck Crisostomo, Asst. Director, EMRSC presented “Thank you” flowers on behalf of the Board and the Center for her commitment and assistance in serving ECCAB.

Bill Strassberger assumed the position of ECCAB Chair and proceeded with the agenda

Director’s Report –

Chuck Crisostomo, Asst. Director, EMRSC introduced and welcomed Joy Nurmi, Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center. Made announcements on:

CIP Forum scheduled on June 10th ; 7:00 p.m. at the Center.

3rd District meeting scheduled on June 24th 7:00 p.m. at the Center.

Joy Nurmi, Director, EMRSC – gave an introduction. Appreciated and thanked Board members for their time in sharing their values and ideas. She attended the swearing-in ceremony of Councilmember Nancy Navarro. Joy is excited and looking forward to working with all.

Chair’s Report – Bill Strassberger

Announcements by

Amjad Chaudhry – shared information on Understanding Islam Conference, a symposium to promote Peace, Harmony, Understanding and Cultural Diversity being held on June 20th; 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA. Invitation cards were distributed to the members with a request to attend the conference.

Kim Bobola – announced Chuck Crisostomo is preparing to arrange an FDA tour to for ECCAB members. Asked members to decide a date for the tour. It was decided that a Fall time frame would work better.

The new Fire Chief, Richard Bowers, is interested in talking to the ECCAB at some future point.

Chair Strassberger – mentioned a need for a volunteers to serve on the Fire Station Site Selection Committee and as a liaison to the East County Recreation Board.

- **Kim Bobola** volunteered to serve as the liaison for the Fire Station Site Committee.
- **David Kochanski, Esq.** volunteered to serve as the liaison on the East County Recreation Board.

Council’s Report: Mara Parker

- Mentioned there has been a budget deficit of \$500 million which was met by the Council.
- All committees were very mindful and conservative regarding budget.
- The County Council passed the Operating Budget of \$3.73 billion for Fiscal Year 2010, which begins July 1.
- The approved budget for County government, which includes the Police Department, the Fire and Rescue Service, and Health and Human Services, but does not include Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), is \$1.25 billion—a decrease of \$28 million (2.2 percent) from FY09.

- The State Board of Education did not approve Montgomery County's request for a waiver of the Maintenance of Effort. The request for a waiver to this requirement from the state was also made by Prince Georges and Wicomico Counties, and the State Board of Education refused all three requests in their entirety. The Maintenance of Effort requires that counties maintain the same level of contribution per student as the previous year. Because of receipt of federal stimulus dollars and the teachers' union's willingness to give up their COLAs this year, MCPS and the County Executive were able to put forward a budget that they could live with, given budget constraints. However, it did not meet the Maintenance of Effort agreement since the federal dollars meant the county's contribution was less per student than last year.
- The State Board of Education expressed in their letter to the Council regarding the refusal to grant the waiver that Montgomery County Government had not made every effort to raise taxes to support the increase in school funding, including raising property taxes.
- Not getting that waiver meant that the County Council faced the horrible prospect of taking about \$79 million in cuts from all other county government departments outside schools, i.e. public safety, libraries, social services, etc., cuts that would have been devastating to those departments and the people they serve.
- The Council ended up coming to an agreement to instead shift a line item that relates to schools, the payment of debt service on school's facilities, to the MCPS budget, which totaled approximately \$80 million.
- Also mentioned that Claire Iseli from the Praisner office staff, will now work in Councilmember Marc Elrich's office effective June 4, 2009. Councilmember Elrich and staff is looking forward to having her contributions, particularly given her expertise in planning issues.

Claire Iseli

- Looking forward to working with Councilmember Marc Elrich. Marc Elrich has worked very closely with District 4 issues in the past.
- Master Plan coming up – Germantown, Gaithersburg, lots to be done. Will continue to monitor east county issues

Approval of Minutes:

Bill Strassberger asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of May 6, 2009.

[June 3, 2009 - 1] A Motion to accept the May 6, 2009 Minutes **with no change**. The Motion was seconded and unanimously approved

Committee Reports

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair

The committee discussed issues regarding the Burtonsville District businesses. Chris Jones' project – being stuck in policy and procedures between SHA and MNCPPC.

Hollywood Ballroom- it is a sticky issue. legislation being considered would make it more difficult for businesses county-wide to put on dances for profit.

Chuck Crisostomo added –a meeting with new Economic and Development Director, Steve

Silverman is set on Monday, June 8, 2009.

Services Committee: Anthony Ramirez, Chair

The committee could not meet since two board members are not on board. Mentioned that Dwayne Parris is taking up the traffic issues at the newly relocated Burtonsville Post office.

Outreach Committee: Marva Deskins, Chair

1. Outreach committee has compiled the notes from the East County Youth Forum and previous events held which will be helpful in drafting the Annual Report.
2. Burtonsville Elementary school PTA, Staples, Green Castle Town Association, Business Center – each member reported.
3. Concern is about cars being broken in parking lots, thefts, parking of truck and trailers in “no parking” zone.
4. Business owners are concerned about business.

Chair Strassberger - next week there will be no Committee Meetings due to CIP forum.

Old Business : None

New Business:

Kim Bobola announced appointment of two new board members – Peter Myo Khin and Odessa Shanon (absent) and welcomed them to the East County Citizens Advisory Board.

Peter Myo Khin – introduced himself and briefly described his background to the board.

Announcements:

Stan Doore shared his thoughts on “High taxes chase away wealthy taxpayers” an article in “Pisa” April 22, 2009 edition, South Korea.

Alfredda Hunt Payne – shared her thoughts on her attendance at the dedication ceremony at the FDA.

Chair Strassberger – asked if a date for the FDA tour can be set on a Saturday morning. Upon discussion, mid September was set for the tour.

Kim Bobola – requested that Pierre Weis, Maryland Park and Planning be part of the tour- to give a clear overview/update on FDA.

Frank Caruso –is receiving a packet in response to the sidewall sound study from Rte 29 traffic – north of Briggs Chaney to northern end of Green Castle road. ICC community leaders presented at their board meeting in June. He requested the ECCAB’s support for his community’s petition to SHA to perform another noise study. The Chair referred the request to the Economic Development Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. *The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for July 1, 2009.*